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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
FE 893.114 Narcotics/2947

April 4, 1941

ANR

Attention: Customs Agency Service

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of the Treasury and encloses herewith, for the information of the Treasury Department, in duplicate, a copy of despatch no. 69, dated February 26, 1941, from the American Consulate at Tsingtao, in regard to the narcotic situation in

Shantung.

Enclosure:

From Consulate, Tsingtao,
no. 69, February 26, 1941,
in duplicate.

Shantung

from

No. 69

AMERICAN CONSULATE

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Tsingtao, China, February 26, 1941.

New Opium Prohibition Bureau Inaugurated
Subject: at Tsingtao. Criticism of Enforcement
of Opium Restrictions.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report the inauguration
on February 1, 1941, of the Tsingtao branch of the
Opium Prohibition Bureau. This is a branch of the
General Bureau of Opium Prohibition established at

Peiping by the North China Political Council to replace the opium suppression organizations formerly established in this area by the Chinese National Government. In the interim opium matters have been handled by the Opium Prohibition Section of the Consolidated Tax Bureau. According to the newspaper report this new bureau will strictly eliminate "illegal" traffic in and smoking of opium in this area, and in connection therewith branch offices will be established in various neighboring towns. The director of the Tsingtao Branch Bureau is Mr. Liu Yueh-lou (劉越樓), a native of Hupeh Province.

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Province. He is described as having formerly served as Chief of the Bureau of Personnel of the old Peiping Government, Inspector General of Opium Prohibition in Juiyuan, and more recently Division Chief of the Provisional Government at Peiping. He is 48 years of age.

It is believed that the purpose behind this reorganization of the opium prohibition organization is to increase revenue rather than any desire to curb the use of opium.

1/ As of possible interest there is enclosed a copy of the translation of an article which appeared in the "Little Critic" column of the Ta Tsingtao Pao of February 13, 1941, in which the narcotics situation at Tsingtao is criticized. As this news-

paper is Japanese owned and as the article was most likely written by a Japanese, it possibly indicates that even the local Japanese residents are not in favor of the present narcotics policy of the Japanese authorities.

Respectfully yours,

Paul W. Meyer,
American Consul.

Enclosures:

1. Translation of article dated February 13, 1941.

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Original and three copies to the Department.

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SOURCE: TA TSINGTAO PAO,
February 13, 1941.

(TRANSLATION)

Little Critic

The most prosperous business at present is being done by the prepared opium shops in town. They need no advertising; they need no recommendations of well-known people. Day in and day out, a constant stream of customers flows through the doors of these well-patronized places. The shop owners and the waiters are busy all the time. So many opium shops which were originally registered as third class have been promoted to second class and second class shops have been re-registered as first class shops. There have also been third class shops which have skipped the second-class registration and jumped right to first-class rating. This fact gives all of us some idea as to how the opium shops have been prospering.

Let us try to analyze the different elements of the customers who patronize these shops. In all fairness, most of them are merchants. But, there is also an alarming number of public functionaries, young men barely over twenty and women in the bloom of youth. The pity is that in the absence of accurate statistics, we are unable to tell the exact number of these "smoking gentlemen".

According to regulations in force in North China, people under age 30 are not allowed to smoke opium. The regulations also provide that public functionaries, teachers and leaders of the people are not allowed to smoke opium. Therefore, I always carry a sick heart for those public functionaries and those young men and women who tread the floors of the opium dens. If our officials should take the matter more seriously, and act according to their own words, what would happen.

Translated by: CML